

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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O 151229Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9789

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 2609

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT

REF: STATE 81237

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT. MISTER MINISTER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND GOVERNMENT, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AMBASSADOR CARTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS:

AS YOU KNOW, I AM IN THE COURSE OF MY FIRST VISIT TO AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA. I WANT TO MAKE TWO POINTS ABOUT THIS TRIP.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE TRIP UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS CONTINENT. AFRICA HAS LONG BEEN THE SCENE OF CRUCIAL EFFORTS IN THE STRUGGLES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NOW WE ARE WITNESSING EVENTS ON THIS CONTINENT THAT ARE DANGEROUS NOT ONLY TO PEACE IN AFRICA BUT ALSO TO PEACE IN THE WORLD. I HAVE COME TO SEE THIS CONTINENT AND BETTER TO UNDERSTAND ITS POTENTIAL FOR HELPING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY, AMITY AND PEACE.

SECONDLY, I WANT LIBERIANS PARTICULARLY TO KNOW THAT, ALTHOUGH THIS TRIP HAS BEEN LONG IN PLANNING, AND ALTHOUGH WHEN AND WHERE WE WOULD GO WAS THE SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION, IT WAS ALWAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CERTAIN THAT LIBERIA WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE ITINERARY. THIS

IS ONLY NATURAL. FOR BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES THERE ARE UNIQUE HISTORICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TIES. THERE IS A LONG TRADITION OF CULTURAL ASSOCIATION. WE HAVE HAD LONG AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN ALLIES IN WAR. WE HAVE WORKED JOINTLY AND COOPERATIVELY TOWARD LIBERIA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEGINNING DURING THE TIME OF YOUR RESPECTED FORMER PRESIDENT TUBMAN AND CONTINUING TO THE PRESENT UNDER YOUR DYNAMIC PRESIDENT TOLBERT.

YOU HAVE NO DOUBT SEEN THAT IN LUSAKA I TOOK OCCASION TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT ABOUT UNITED STATES POLICY IN CERTAIN AFRICAN MATTERS. IT IS EQUALLY A PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP TO LEARN ON THE GROUND MORE ABOUT THE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF AFRICA. IT IS NO SECRET THAT I BELIEVE IN THE IRREPLACEABLE VALUE OF FACE-TO-FACE TALK WITH THE LEADERS WHO UNDERSTAND AND CAN INFLUENCE THE DIRECTIONS THAT CHANGE, ALWAYS INEVITABLE, WILL TAKE. I AM THEREFORE LOOKING FORWARD TO MY TALKS WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS COLLEAGUES. MY TIME HERE WILL NECESSARILY BE SHORT. BUT, MR. MINISTER, I AM GRATEFUL FOR, AND GREATLY VALUE, THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOMETHING OF YOUR LEADERS, YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR PEOPLE. END TEXT.

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